

REMARKS

Claims 4 through 11 and 15 through 24 are pending in the application and have been allowed. Claims 5, 6, and 15 are the only independent claims present in the application.

In an attachment to the Notice of Allowability forwarded with the above-noted Notice of Allowance, the Examiner identifies Examiner's Amendments made to Claims 8, 9, 17, and 20. Upon review of these amended claims and certain other allowed claims, it was noticed that a few additional amendments will improve the form of the allowed claims.

Initially, it is noted that this Amendment After Allowance (this "Amendment") has been prepared taking into consideration the Examiner's Amendments, i.e., the additions and deletions detailed by the Examiner have been made to Claims 8, 9, 17, and 20. (Accordingly, no strikethrough of deleted text and no underlined insertion of inserted text made in the Examiner's Amendments are shown in this Amendment.) The amendments presented herein are consistent with and further to the amendments made by the Examiner. It is respectfully submitted that the amendments do not affect the allowability of the claims, and that no new matter has been added.

This Amendment ensures that the patent issuing herefrom will be in the best possible form. No additional claims are presented. The amendments presented herein were not previously presented, inasmuch as it was only recently recognized that the form of the claims could be improved. Given the Examiner's familiarity with the present application, it is respectfully submitted that full consideration of this Amendment will not require any additional search, more than a cursory review of the record, or any

materially-added work, time, and effort on the part of the Office. See Manual of Patent Examining Procedure § 714.16, pages 700-211 and 700-212 (Rev. 1, Feb. 2003).

Favorable consideration and entry hereof are earnestly solicited.

If there is any reason precluding entry of this Amendment After Allowance, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the below-shown telephone number so that remedial action can be taken.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our New York office at the below-shown address.

Respectfully submitted,



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